(b) A statement indicating the State-wise number of villages electrified during the period 1989-90 and 1990-91 is given below :

Statements

Statewise number of villages electrified under REC Programmes

Sl. No.	State	1989-90	1990-91
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	391	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	160	85
3.	Assam	611	310
4.	Bihar	2318	735
5.	Goa	—	—
6.	Gujarat	—	—
7.	Haryana	—	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	43	34
10.	Karnataka	—	—
11.	Kerala	—	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4065	2977
13.	Maharashtra	—	—
14.	Manipur	172	211
15.	Meghalaya	233	101
16.	Mizoram	95	50
17.	Nagaland	2	—
18.	Orissa	865	1361
19.	Punjab	—	—
20.	Rajasthan	1923	760
21.	Sikkim	30	36
22.	Tamil Nadu	—	—
23.	Tripura	174	200
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1832	2207
25.	West Bengal	1500	1152
	TOTAL	14414	10219

INCREASE IN COAL PRICES

1078. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of coal have been increased more than double during the last three years ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to bring down the prices in public interest ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Since the cost of inputs, over most of which coal companies have no control, keep going up, it is not possible to bring the prices down. Some of the major steps taken by coal companies to control cost of production are as follows :—

(1) Improved manpower planning including redeployment of surplus workers

and restricting the intake of new employees against vacancies caused by natural wastage.

(2) Control on increase in manpower through voluntary retirement schemes.

(3) The concept of 'all men-all jobs" is being tried on an experimental basis.

(4) Increase in production and productivity with special emphasis on underground mines.

(5) Improvement in the availability and utilisation of equipment by providing adequate workshop support, improved management of spares and timely rehabilitation of equipments.

(6) A number of systems improvements and managerial measures have been adopted to improve efficiency of operations.

[*Translation*]

PHASING OUT OF STEAM LOCOMOTIVES

1079. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to replace the steam locomotives by 2000 AD ; if so, the details thereof ;

(b) whether there is any fresh proposal to re-consider the said scheme and continue with the steam locomotives in view of the petroleum crisis and unemployment ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. The operating cost of steam traction is over five times that of diesel/electric traction and no staff is retrenched with change in form of traction.

RAILWAY BRIDGE IN JAIPUR

1080. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foundation stone for a railway bridge was laid during 1989 at Baves Godam in Jaipur ;

(b) if so, the cost of construction estimated at that time and when it was scheduled to be completed ;

(c) whether the land on both sides of the railway line and some portion of the road running parallel to the railway line upto Sanganer had to be acquired ;

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard ;

(e) whether it could not be decided so far as to how much of the total cost would be borne by the State Government and the Railways ; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The overall cost of the proposed four lane bridge was Rs. 4.41 crores. No target time for completion of the work could be fixed, as the State Government decided to revise the scope of the work.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The State Government, who are concerned with the matter, have already acquired a part of the requisite land.

(e) The approximate overall cost of the revised scheme of two lane road overbridge will now be Rs. 4.23 crores, to be shared by the Railways (Rs. 1.78 crores) and the State Government (Rs. 2.45 crores).

(f) Does not arise, in view of reply to part(e) of the question.